

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An open and close mechanism for inserting a recording medium into a medium container, comprising:

a recording medium insertion path allowable to pass the recording medium therethrough;

an open and close device for opening and closing the recording medium insertion path;

a driving device for operating said open and close device to open the recording medium insertion path; and

a locking device for locking an open and close operation of the open and close device, whether or not the recording medium is provided in the medium container, when the open and close device closes the recording medium insertion path, and maintains a condition of locking the open and close operation when an external force, other than an opening force provided by the driving device, acts on the open and close device,

wherein said locking device releases a locking condition of the open and close device when the driving device operates the open and close device to open the recording medium insertion path;

~~wherein the locking device does not exert a driving force for operating the open and close device.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) An open and close mechanism for a recording medium insertion path, for inserting a recording medium into a mechanical body of a record playback device and ejecting the same therefrom, comprising:

a recording medium insertion path allowable to pass the recording medium therethrough;

an open and close device for opening and closing the recording medium insertion path;

a locking device for locking an open and close operation of the open and close device, whether or not the recording medium is provided in the mechanical body, when the open and close device closes the recording medium insertion path; and

a driving device for operating said open and close device to open the recording medium insertion path, and the driving device installed in the mechanical body, wherein said locking device releases a locking condition of the open and close device when the driving device operates the open and close device to open the recording medium insertion path,

wherein the locking device maintains a condition of locking the open and close operation when an external force, other than an opening force provided by the driving device, acts on the open and close device, and

wherein said open and close device comprises:

an open and close door provided rotatably about a center of a pivot shaft extending along a direction of width of the recording medium insertion path and rotating about the center of said pivot shaft for opening and closing the recording medium insertion path;

a door gear rotating together with the open and close door operation of opening and closing the recording medium insertion path; and

an energizing device for energizing the door gear for closing the open and close door of the recording medium insertion path, wherein the door gear is rotated by the driving device for opening the open and close door of the recording medium insertion path, wherein the locking device locks the open and close door rotating about the center of the pivot shaft when closing the recording medium insertion path and allows the open and close door rotating about the center of the pivot shaft when the driving device rotating the door gear;

~~wherein the locking device does not exert a driving force for operating the open and close device.~~

4. (previously presented) An open and close mechanism for a recording medium insertion path, for inserting a recording medium into a mechanical body of a record playback device and ejecting the same therefrom, comprising:

a recording medium insertion path allowable to pass the recording medium therethrough;

an open and close device for opening and closing the recording medium insertion path;

a locking device for locking open and close operation of the open and close device when the open and close device closes the recording medium insertion path; and

a driving device for operating said open and close device to open the recording medium insertion path, and the driving device installed in the mechanical body, wherein said locking device releases a locking condition of the open and close device when the driving device operates the open and close device to open the recording medium insertion path,

wherein said open and close device comprises:

an open and close door provided rotatably about a center of a pivot shaft extending along a direction of width of the recording medium insertion path and rotating about the center of said pivot shaft for opening and closing the recording medium insertion path;

a door gear rotating together with the open and close door operation of opening and closing the recording medium insertion path; and

an energizing device for energizing the door gear for closing the open and close door of the recording medium insertion path, wherein the door gear is rotated by the driving device for opening the open and close door of the recording medium insertion path, wherein the locking device locks the open and close door rotating about the center of the pivot shaft when closing the

recording medium insertion path and allows the open and close door rotating about the center of the pivot shaft when the driving device rotating the door gear,

wherein said locking device comprises:

a cam member being rotated together with the door gear by the driving device when the driving device rotates the door gear;

a convex portion projecting toward the pivot shaft from the cam member; and

a concave portion formed concavely on an outer surface of the pivot shaft, wherein the convex portion goes into the concave portion to lock the open and close door rotating about the center of the pivot shaft when the open and close door closing the recording medium insertion path, wherein the cam member rotates together with the door gear for moving the convex portion in the concave portion and getting the same out the concave portion to allow the open and close door rotating about the center of the pivot shaft when the door gear is rotated by the driving device.

5. (previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a door that opens and closes an insertion path of a recording medium;

a lock that secures the door when the door is in a closed position; and

a gear that rotates when the door opens or closes,

wherein the lock comprises a cam that rotates with the gear when the gear is driven to rotate.

6. (previously presented) The open and close mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the lock further comprises a convex projection that projects from the cam member and that serves to lock the door when the door is in the closed position.

7. (previously presented) The open and close mechanism according to claim 5, wherein a motor energizes the gear for closing the door.

8. (previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:
a door that opens and closes an insertion path of a recording medium;
a lock that secures the door when the door is in a closed position,
wherein the lock is released when the door is moved to an open position,
wherein the lock does not exert a driving force to move the door to the open position or the closed position.

9. (new) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the door opens and closes the insertion path of the recording medium via a driving device,

wherein the lock secures the door in the closed position whether or not the recording medium is provided in the apparatus, and

wherein the lock maintains a secured condition when an external force, other than a driving force of the driving device, acts on the door